

LOG215: Thinking Critically

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course introduces students to the process of critical thinking and offers knowledge and experience that can be applied to academic, professional, and personal growth. Students will learn to examine and evaluate the information they are exposed to, confidently select appropriate evidence from conflicting data, and craft that evidence into viable answers or solutions. Material will be drawn from examples and scenarios based on actual academic and professional situations so that the application of knowledge will easily transfer to events outside of the classroom.

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor Name	Gerard Arthus
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Course Length

The college evaluates each course in terms of quarter hours of credit. One unit of credit is usually equivalent to a minimum of ten academic instruction hours of lecture and examination, twenty hours of skill development, or thirty hours of externship, or a combination of the three. An academic instructional hour is fifty minutes.

This class will meet for the equivalent of a minimum of 40 instructional hours or as otherwise scheduled by the college and at least in conformance with this minimum and the Syllabus. As specified under the Method of Instruction section of this Outline, the instructor will ensure that the minimum total class sessions presented consist of one hundred percent lecture. As specified under the Method of Instruction section of this syllabus, the instructor will ensure that the minimum total class sessions presented consist of direct faculty instruction or appropriate classroom activity.

All course offerings require outside preparation time, which is approximately two hours per lecture instructional hour and/or one hour per skill development instructional hour, depending on the background, interest, abilities, and motivation of the individual student.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Structure an argument and understand how to use knowledge of that structure to validate the argument's conclusions.
2. Define, recognize, challenge, and defend personal assumptions.
3. Test logic and make decisions using deductive reasoning.
4. Develop a basic understanding of and readily identify the limitations associated with statistical decision-making and probability.
5. Recognize and resolve errors in reasoning.
6. Appreciate the power of the words, images, and other forms of communication used to frame and influence arguments, recognize when these methods obfuscate truth or confuse an argument.
7. Form and deliver a persuasive argument on an appropriate issue.
8. Apply skills learned to other classes and to professional experiences.

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Gradebook

A student's performance in this course will be evaluated using a variety of factors listed below. Instructors must use a minimum of three (**homework, tests and a final exam are required**), and it is recommended that instructors use all five of the areas in your evaluation.

The exact weight to be given to any particular area is determined by the instructor and will normally fall within the ranges listed below.

Area	Percentage for this Course	Suggested Range
Final Exam	25%	20 – 25%
Tests	30%	20 – 40%
Homework	15%	10 – 15%
Project/Research Paper	20%	20 – 25%
Class Participation	10%	10 – 15%
TOTAL	100%	

Letter Grade	Points	Explanation
A	94-100	Excellent
B	84-93	Above Average
C	74-83	Average
D	64-73	Below Average
F	63 & Below	Failure

Textbook & Instructional Material

Diestler, S. Becoming a Critical Thinker: A User Friendly Manual, 6th ed. w/My Lab. Pearson, 2012.

The instructor might utilize additional instructional materials as provided by the publisher.

Course Outline

Term: 147

Class Date: Week 1: 09 July 2014 Chapter 1: <i>Foundations of Arguments</i>	Homework Due Date: <u>By the end of the next week</u>
In Class Activities <u>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</u> <u>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</u> <u>Document and record all work with appropriate</u>	Homework <u>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</u>

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<p><u>screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software; or the Snagit feature in Windows 7) and clear, concise, and understandable wording. Complete these assignments in a tutorial type format as if you were explaining the materials to someone who was unfamiliar with the information.</u></p>	
<p>Class Date: Week 2: 16 July 2014 Chapter 2: <i>Values and Ethics</i></p>	<p>Homework Due Date: <u>By the end of the next week</u></p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p><u>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</u></p> <p><u>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</u></p> <p><u>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software; or the Snagit feature in Windows 7) and clear, concise, and understandable wording. Complete these assignments in a tutorial type format as if you were explaining the materials to someone who was unfamiliar with the information.</u></p>	<p>Homework</p> <p><u>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</u></p>
<p>Class Date: Week 3: 23 July 2014 Chapter 3: <i>Reality Assumptions</i></p>	<p>Homework Due Date: <u>By the end of the next week</u></p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p><u>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</u></p> <p><u>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</u></p> <p><u>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software;</u></p>	<p>Homework</p> <p><u>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</u></p>

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<p>Class Date: Week 4: 30 July 2014 Chapter 4: <i>Inductive Arguments: Statistical and Causal Generalizations</i></p>	<p>Homework Due Date: <u>By the end of the next week</u></p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p><u>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</u></p> <p><u>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</u></p> <p><u>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software; or the Snagit feature in Windows 7) and clear, concise, and understandable wording. Complete these assignments in a tutorial type format as if you were explaining the materials to someone who was unfamiliar with the information.</u></p>	<p>Homework</p> <p><u>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</u></p>
<p>Class Date: Week 5: 06 August 2014 Chapter 5: <i>Inductive Generalizations: Controlled Studies and Analogies</i></p>	<p>Homework Due Date: <u>By the end of the next week</u></p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p><u>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</u></p> <p><u>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</u></p> <p><u>Document and record all work with appropriate</u></p>	<p>Homework</p> <p><u>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</u></p>

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<p>Class Date: Week 6: 13 August 2014 Chapter 6: Reasoning Errors</p>	<p>Homework Due Date: By the end of the next week</p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</p> <p>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</p> <p>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software; or the Snagit feature in Windows 7) and clear, concise, and understandable wording. Complete these assignments in a tutorial type format as if you were explaining the materials to someone who was unfamiliar with the information.</p>	<p>Homework</p> <p>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</p>
<p>Class Date: Week 7: 20 August 2014 Chapter 7: The Power of Language</p>	<p>Homework Due Date: By the end of the next week</p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</p> <p>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</p> <p>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software;</p>	<p>Homework</p> <p>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</p>

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<p>Class Date: Week 8: 27 August 2014 Chapter 8: <i>Suggestion in Media</i></p>	<p>Homework Due Date: By the end of the next week</p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</p> <p>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</p> <p>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software; or the Snagit feature in Windows 7) and clear, concise, and understandable wording. Complete these assignments in a tutorial type format as if you were explaining the materials to someone who was unfamiliar with the information.</p>	<p>Homework</p> <p>Do Homework for this week as listed on the Course Web-site for each Chapter in the Assigned Textbook.</p>
<p>Class Date: Week 9: 03 September 2014 Chapter 9: <i>Fair-Mindedness</i></p>	<p>Homework Due Date: By the end of the next week</p>
<p>In Class Activities</p> <p>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</p> <p>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</p> <p>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software; or the Snagit feature in Windows 7) and clear, concise,</p>	<p>Homework</p>

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Class Date: Week 9: 03 September 2014 Chapter 10: <i>Persuasive Speaking</i>	Homework Due Date: By the end of the next week
In Class Activities	Homework
<u>Do all of the Hands-on Labs in this week's chapters.</u> <u>Do the quiz and the discussion forum posted on the Course Web-site for this week.</u> <u>Document and record all work with appropriate screenshots (Using Greenshot screen-capture software; or the Snagit feature in Windows 7) and clear, concise, and understandable wording. Complete these assignments in a tutorial type format as if you were explaining the materials to someone who was unfamiliar with the information.</u>	

This course has an in-class final exam. Final exam date: 10 September 2014

Additional Final Exam Information:

Method of Instruction

Instructional techniques must be appropriate, and at a collegiate level, to the specific goals and objectives, i.e. intended learner outcomes, cited above. Students and instructors must have a clear understanding of the intended learner outcomes to be mastered and time requirements of the course, the nature of the course context, and the method of evaluation.

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The method of instruction is primarily lecture and provides instruction in theory, principles, or practices of the discipline. The instructor will provide classroom presentations in a variety of lecture formats. Methods of instruction must fulfill the intended learner outcomes and competencies stated in the course goals and objectives and are appropriate to the capabilities of the students. For career oriented courses, the instructor must demonstrate that an effective relationship exists between curricular content and current practices in the field.

Effective instruction depends largely upon the maintenance of an environment conducive to study and learning. For this reason, the instructor must provide for his/her students a learning environment in which scholarly and creative achievement is encouraged in the classroom.

Additional Class Notes

Go to <http://www.openeducation.org/moodle> to use the Web-Assisted site for this course. Quizzes and discussion forums will be completed on-line at this site. This site will have a detailed explanation of all of the course requirements, materials, readings, videos.